FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

Date: August 15, 2003

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To: Examiner: Daniel R. Zirker
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit: 1771

Phone: 1-703-308-0031
Fax: 1-703-872-9381

From: Scott R. Pribnow
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
P.O. Box 33427
St. Paul, MN 55133-3427
U.S.A.
Phone: (651) 736-3512
Fax: (651) 736-3833

Application No.: 10/014625
First Named Inventor: Hawkins, Stephen J.
Title: Polyolefin Pressure Sensitive Adhesive Tape with an Improved Priming Layer

Case No.: 56937US002

Attachments: Page 6 of the Amendment previously filed on June 13, 2003.

32692
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent
Case No.: 56937US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:	HAWKINS, STEPHEN J.		
Application No.:	10/014625	Group Art Unit:	1771
Filed:	October 22, 2001	Examiner:	Daniel R. Zirker
Title:	POLYOLEFIN PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE TAPE WITH AN IMPROVED PRIMING LAYER		

COMMUNICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

August 15, 2003
Date

Signed by: Kimberly A. Hayes

Dear Sir:

Per your request, attached hereto is a duplicate copy of page 6 of the Amendment filed on June 13, 2003 in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

August 15, 2003
Date

By: _____
Scott R. Pribnow, Reg. No.: 43,869
Telephone No.: (651) 736-3512

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu et al. in view of either Davison or Hansen et al.

The present invention provides a primer comprising a maleated thermoplastic elastomer, a non-halogenated polyolefin, and a resin, wherein the resin raises the glass transition temperature of the elastomer portion of the maleated theromoplastic elastomer. (See, page 6, line 18 – page 7, line 32; and claims 1 and 12, as amended.)

The Examiner stated that Babu et al. disclose a primer comprising a triblock copolymer of styrene-ethlene/butylenes-styrene grafted with maleic anhydride mixed with an amorphous polypropylene. The Examiner acknowledged that the reference lacks the teaching of the presence of a suitable "resin." See Office Action page 3. The Examiner asserts that each of the secondary references disclose a suitable resin.

The resins of the present invention raise the glass transition temperature of the elastomer portion of the maleated thermoplastic elastomer. (See, page 7, lines 3-5; and claim 1, as amended.)

Hansen et al. teach a primer composition comprising an elastomeric block copolymer and an end-block compatible resin. (see, col. 1, lines 62-67; col. 3, line 39-46; and col. 4, lines 29-31). Hansen et al. teach that suitable polymers have endblocks giving a resinous segment and a midblock giving an elastomeric segment (col. 2, lines 4-9). Thus, the resins of Hansen et al. are compatible with the resinous segments of the elastomeric block copolymer, not the elastomeric midblock segments.

Similarly, Davison teaches resins with a high degree of compatibility with the endblocks and largely incompatible with the elastomeric midblocks. (See, col. 2, lines 26-26; and lines 53-57.)

Applicants respectfully submit that Babu et al. in combination with either Hansen et al. or Davison fails to teach or suggest a resin that raises the glass transition temperature of the elastomer portions of a maleated thermoplastic elastomer. Thus, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu et al. in view of either Davison or Hansen et al. has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.